

Application No.: 10/764,847
Amendment dated: December 28, 2005
Reply to Office action of 09/30/2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-4(Canceled).

5(previously presented). A press felt for papermaking comprising a base body and a fibrous assembly, and having a wet paper web contacting surface and a machine contacting surface, and a three-dimensional knitted fabric comprising two overlying layers of fabric connected to each other by connecting fibers, said three-dimensional knitted fabric being incorporated within said press felt at a distance from both the wet paper web contacting surface and the machine contacting surface, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric is provided on the machine contacting surface side relative to said base body.

6(previously presented). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 5, wherein said connecting fibers are monofilament fibers.

7-8(Canceled).

9(previously presented). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 5, wherein said fibrous

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assembly is provided between said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said base body.

10-15 (Canceled).

16 (previously presented). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 6, wherein said fibrous assembly is provided between said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said base body.

17 (cancelled)

18 (previously presented). A press felt for papermaking comprising a base body and a fibrous assembly, and having a wet paper web contacting surface and a machine contacting surface, and at least two three-dimensional knitted fabrics, each three-dimensional knitted fabric comprising two overlying knitted layers connected to each other by connecting fibers, said three-dimensional knitted fabrics being incorporated within said press felt at a distance from both the wet paper web contacting surface and the machine contacting surface, and said base body being provided between two of said three-dimensional knitted fabrics.

19-23 (cancelled)

24 (currently amended). A press felt for papermaking as claimed in claim 18, wherein each at least one of said three-dimensional knitted fabrics, located between ~~which~~ the base

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~~body is provided and the wet paper web contacting surface,~~ has openings surrounded by fibers, the opening ratio of the surface of ~~each of~~ said at least one of said three-dimensional knitted fabrics is 50% or less, and the size of the openings surrounded by fibers is 0.03 cm² or less.

25(new). A press felt according to claim 9, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said fibrous assembly are integrated by needle punching, the density of said three-dimensional knitted fabric being in the range from 0.1 g/cm³ to 0.4 g/cm³, with the fibers of said fibrous assembly having entered said three dimensional knitted fabric as a result of needle punching.

26(new). A press felt according to claim 16, wherein said three-dimensional knitted fabric and said fibrous assembly are integrated by needle punching, the density of said three-dimensional knitted fabric being in the range from 0.1 g/cm³ to 0.4 g/cm³, with the fibers of said fibrous assembly having entered said three dimensional knitted fabric as a result of needle punching.